



BARBARA FERRER, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed.
Director

MUNTU DAVIS, M.D., M.P.H.
County Health Officer

MEGAN McCLAIRE, M.S.P.H.
Chief Deputy Director

313 North Figueroa Street, Suite 808
Los Angeles, CA 90012
TEL (213) 288-8117 • FAX (213) 975-1273

www.publichealth.lacounty.gov



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Hilda L. Solis

First District

Holly J. Mitchell

Second District

Lindsey P. Horvath

Third District

Janice Hahn

Fourth District

Kathryn Barger

Fifth District

April 04, 2023

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT AND IMPLEMENT A LETTER OF ALLOCATION AND FUTURE ALLOCATIONS FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO SUPPORT THE PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Provide authorization to accept and implement a Letter of Allocation and future Letter of Allocations and/or amendments from the California Department of Social Services to support the new Public Health Nurse Early Intervention Program.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Authorize and instruct the Director of the Department of Public Health (Public Health), or designee, to accept and implement a Letter of Allocation (LOA) (Exhibit I) from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), to support a new Public Health Nurse Early Intervention (PHNEI) program in the Child Welfare Public Health Nursing (CWPHN) in Public Health's Children's Medical Services for the period of January 1, 2023, through June 30, 2023, at an estimated amount of \$8,250,000.
2. Delegate authority to the Director of Public Health, or designee, to accept future LOAs and/or amendments from CDSS that are consistent with the provisions and requirements of the LOA that extend the funding periods for the LOA references above or for new LOA terms/periods at amounts to be determined by CDSS; reflect revisions to the LOA's terms and conditions to include but not be limited to the rollover of unspent funds, redirection of funds, and/or increase or decrease funding, subject to review and approval by County Counsel, and notification to your Board and the Chief

Executive Office (CEO).

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of Recommendation 1 will allow Public Health to accept a State General Fund (SGF) allocation from CDSS to launch and support PHNEI program services provided as chaptered in Welfare & Institutions Code (WIC) section 16521.8.

The PHNEI program is intended to reduce the number of children and youth at risk of entering or returning to the foster care system, and to improve their outcomes by helping them access health care and education and connecting them and their families to safety net services.

Additionally, the PHNEI program will bolster the spectrum of nursing and medical case management services to children, youth, and their families in the child welfare system by reducing Public Health Nurse (PHN) caseloads, ensuring greater supervision and support, and developing a comprehensive data management system that seamlessly links and integrates electronic client records across the child welfare system.

Services will enable PHNs to achieve the following: 1) conduct more home visits with families; 2) respond to a greater number of child welfare emergency response referrals; 3) provide greater health education and safety net tools and resources to families; 4) coordinate health care and access to vulnerable children, youth and their families; 5) interpret medical records for optimal use by Children Social Workers (CSWs) at the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS); 6) expand CSW knowledge and awareness of physical, medical and behavioral health conditions families experience in the child welfare system; and 7) partner directly with families whose medically fragile children are in DCFS' Medical Case Management, Family Reunifications and other programs.

The Governor's Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 includes newly authorized SGFs to be utilized specifically for the purpose of implementing or expanding the PHNEI program.

Approval of Recommendation 2 will allow Public Health to accept future SGF allocations and/or amendments for the LOA referenced above or for new LOA terms/periods that extend the funding periods and reflect revisions to the allocation's terms and conditions.

This recommended action will also authorize Public Health to accept subsequent years' SGF allocations that will enable California's Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to match with federal Title XIX funds for future expanded staffing and services. This authority is being requested to enhance Public Health's efforts to expeditiously maximize grant revenue, consistent with Board policy 4.070: Full Utilization of Grant Funds.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions support Strategy I.1, Increase our Focus on Prevention Initiative; Strategy I.2, Enhance Our Delivery of Comprehensive Interventions; and Strategy I.3, Reform Service Delivery Within Our Justice Systems, of the County's Strategic Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Public Health will accept the estimated SGF allocation of \$8,250,000 from CDSS for the period of January 1, 2023, through June 30, 2023. The funds will initially support staffing, contracts, and operating costs to support health care and education and medical case management services that help prevent at-risk children and youth from entering or returning to the foster care system. Work that the clinical staff perform in the PHNEI program will be used as a match to generate additional Federal Title XIX funds through DHCS for expanded staffing and services in the CWPHN program in the future.

Funding is included in Public Health's FY2022-23 budget and will be included in future FYs, as necessary.

There is no net County cost associated with this action.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Senate Bill 80 (Stats. 2019, Ch. 27) was approved by the State Legislature in June 2019, signed by the Governor and chaptered into W&IC section 16521.8 authorizing PHNEI for a three-to-five-year term. The statute enabled Los Angeles County's Public Health to create a child welfare public health nursing program in which PHNs will partner with DCFS CSWs to identify children and youth in the child welfare system who may be at-risk of entering the foster care system; to reduce their return to the foster care system; and to improve their and their families' health care outcomes, well-being and emotional health.

The pilot project was accompanied by an annual SGF allocation of \$8.25 million to Public Health through CDSS that will be used for core staffing, related costs and services to be matched by federal Title XIX funds through DHCS.

In June 2021, the statute was amended by Assembly Bill 153 (Stats. 2021, Ch. 86) to remove the three-to-five-year timeframe and to extend the \$8.25 million SGF allocation annually.

Work on the project was delayed due to the Coronavirus 2019 pandemic. The attached LOA represents the first annual SGF allocation from CDSS, with an initial term of January 1, 2023, to June 30, 2023.

Public Health will be forwarding an initial staffing pattern to be funded by this annual allocation through the FY 2022-23 budget process. The allocation may also be dedicated to Information Technology vendor services, contract staffing and/or operating costs addressed in future budget processes as program needs dictate. Public Health has developed an initial PHNEI Scope of Work in consultation with DCFS and other partners and stakeholders. DHCS is currently in discussions with federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on behalf of PHNEI to determine which interventions are eligible for Title XIX matching funds at what rates.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved Exhibit I as to form.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of the recommended actions will allow Public Health to continue supporting the provision of critical public health nursing and medical case management services, and home visits in

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

4/4/2023

Page 4

collaboration with DCFS CSWs to children and youth in Los Angeles County's child welfare system who may otherwise be at risk of entering or returning to the foster care system.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Ferrer".

Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd

Director

BF:mk

#06840

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

CALIFORNIA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov

EXHIBIT I



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

January 13, 2023

Barbara Ferrer, Director
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
313 N. Figueroa Street, Room 806
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Director Ferrer:

This letter informs Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 Public Health Nurse Early Intervention (PHNEI) Program. A total of approximately \$8.25 million General Fund (GF) is available for allocation to Los Angeles County DPH, based on the Budget Act of 2022.

Background

Welfare & Institutions Code (W&IC) section 16521.8, as added by Senate Bill 80 (Stats. 2019, Ch. 27) and most recently amended by Assembly Bill 153 (Stats. 2021, Ch. 86), authorized the county of Los Angeles to create a child welfare public health nursing early intervention program, known as the LA PHNEI. The purpose of the program is to improve outcomes for the expanded population of youth at risk of entering the foster care system by maximizing access to health care and health education and connecting youth and families to safety net services.

Program Requirements

The program shall be administered by the Los Angeles County DPH, in cooperation with the county's Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

Consistent with W&IC section 16521.8, funding appropriated for purposes of the program shall be used for, but not limited to, the following:

1. Hiring a sufficient number of new public health nurses, with the goal of achieving an average caseload ratio of 200:1.
2. Hiring additional public health nursing supervisors to provide necessary guidance and support.
3. Hiring senior and intermediate typist clerks to assist with data entry.
4. Establishing an accountability mechanism and a shared information and data exchange system.

A county public health nurse providing services under the program may do all the following:

1. Respond to emergency response referrals with social workers.
2. Conduct emergency and routine home visits with social workers.
3. Educate social workers on behavioral, mental and physical health conditions.
4. Identify behavioral and health conditions that social workers are not trained to identify.
5. Provide follow-up with families of youth who remain in the home to monitor compliance with the medical, dental, and mental health care plans to promote wellbeing and minimize repeat referrals.
6. Conduct routine follow-ups and monitoring of medically fragile and medically at-risk children and youth in the Family Maintenance and Reunification programs.
7. Provide parents and guardians with educational tools and resources to ensure the child's physical, mental, and behavioral health needs are being met.
8. Interpret medical records and reports for social workers.

The Los Angeles County DPH, in cooperation with the Los Angeles County DCFS, shall develop appropriate outcome measures to determine the effectiveness of the program, including established triaging tools and visitation protocols, in achieving the objectives described above. Commencing January 1, 2023, after allocated funding has been provided to the Los Angeles County DPH by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), and each January 1 thereafter, the DPH shall report to the Legislature on the effectiveness of the program using those outcome measures, including any recommendations for continuation or expansion of the program.

Los Angeles County DPH must use the attached Claim Form to claim the funding. The Claim Form must be submitted by the fifth day of each month to Dayna Haldeman at Dayna.Haldeman@dss.ca.gov via electronic mail to receive reimbursement. Costs submitted via the attached Claim Form will be paid within 45 days of receipt by CDSS.

For questions regarding this allocation, please contact fiscal.systems@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

NATHAN HART, Chief
Financial Management Branch
Finance and Accounting Division